

ST. HELENS MIST
FOUNDED 1881

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THE COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER

THIS LAW HAS STOOD THE TEST.

The road law, known as the Carnahan Law of 1903, making provisions for the levying of special taxes in the several districts to be for use in that particular district, has stood the test of time and is now acknowledged to be the best system of road taxation ever used in the state. By using this means several of the road districts have been able to, and have, built good roads with their special taxes without putting the burden on any others than those specially interested. This law, if it had been put to use this year, would have been much more satisfactory to all portions of the county than the present method of making a general levy. The roads in the several districts of the county are pretty well under way. The money derived from the sale of bonds has put the roads from Tide Creek to Clatsop County in such shape, provided the old roads are utilized, that special levies in the different districts would be more effective than would a general levy which requires the expenditure of certain portions of the money in the several districts in which it is raised. Now that the bond money is all spent and a levy of 7.55 mills will be levied this year for general roads, it would certainly seem to be the wiser plan to return to the Carnahan law after this, and permit each district to levy its own special road taxes and do its own work. By this means the money paid in taxes in each district would be spent in that district and the men who pay the taxes would receive the benefit of the money by doing the work. If a system of road building is desired to cover the entire county, it can be done under that law just as well as under the present plan.

Judge Eakin, Circuit Judge of this district, is the author of the Carnahan Law, he having drafted it before its introduction into the Legislature. It has proved to be the only law that has stood the test of time and become more popular and useful with age. It has been discontinued for a couple of years in this county, but from past experiences the people are ready to return to it.

The experience of this year and the last have been such as to cause the discovery of a defect in that law which could be easily remedied by the coming legislature without impairing its efficiency. Under the present law the special levies must be made and returned to the assessor before the general levy is made. If that order was reversed and have the general levy of roads to be made prior to the time for the levying of the special road taxes, there could not possibly be a conflict and each district would know just how much it should raise for the work to be done in that district. With this idea in view the Mist will prepare a bill for this improvement in the Carnahan law and submit it to our representative in the Legislature for his approval and introduction. When this change is made it will allow the Court to make the general levy much lower than at present and still be assured that the district work in the several districts will be taken care of, and there will be an end to sectional and factional differences. Every section of the county and every district will get what they want at their own expense and not, as is claimed now, at the expense of their neighbors.

BID FOR THE OFFICES.

A unique suggestion for the conduct of county affairs was suggested last Tuesday by Mr. S. Salser, a farmer of Yankton. His proposal was to hold an election for one man to be a general manager of county affairs. This would be the only officer elected in the county. This manager would then advertise bids to be submitted for the performance of the duties of the various offices such as sheriff, clerk, treasurer, assessor, etc., the lowest bidder to be awarded the contract. It would make no difference as to the nationality, color or previous condition of servitude, as long as the bidder was able to furnish a bond for the faithful performance of his duties.

Mr. Salser has figured out that this plan would be in keeping with the present policy of letting out road work and other public service to the lowest bidder, whether those bidders be Japs, Hindus, Austrians, Greeks or any other nationality. He points out that men of the same nationality as the contractor

could be imported who would do the work at a very minimum of expense to the taxpayers. As proof of his assertions of economical administration, he points to the road contracts secured by the Greeks and Hindus and Austrians, who import their own men and pay them just what they please and then fail and refuse to pay the resident taxpayers in business, money for supplies furnished them.

Of course the proposal of Mr Salser was intended more as a slap at the methods now in vogue of letting road work to outsiders who import their own cheap labor to the exclusion of the residents and taxpayers of the county. But it is sarcasm of the right kind. A lesson can be learned from the proposition which, if heeded, would result in better service to the public, a participation by taxpayers in the public work, and really more economy to the taxpayers in the long run.

BOTH SIDES WON.

The rule is becoming pretty well established that when you want anything you must ask for more or less than you really expect to get. At the budget meeting last Tuesday this rule was aptly demonstrated when the people from a certain section of the county came here demanding a 10 mill road levy while the people from another section came here demanding only a 5 mill levy. Neither side expected to get what they asked and each side was ready to concede something to the other. When it was finally compromised by recommending a 7.5 mill levy each side was satisfied and both claimed a victory, while as a matter of fact both sides got just about what they expected. So apparent was this feeling after the meeting was over that it really seemed a shame to have wasted all the oratory and charges, counter-charges and personalities indulged in at the meeting, when it could have been accomplished by the getting together of a few men from each locality and agreeing upon the amount before hand.

Still it was quite interesting to listen to the speeches of the various leaders in the fight and one of the greatest results was the discovery of so much oratorical talent in Columbia County, and that there was a better feeling between the sectional factions than before the meeting was held.

Both sides won and both sides were satisfied with the results.

THE TAXPAYERS LEAGUE.

The Columbia County Taxpayers League is a new organization but its influence is already beginning to be felt in matters of public concern. As will be seen in our columns this week the committee appointed at previous meetings to make certain investigations have reported with the result that strong resolutions have been adopted asking that Major H. L. Bowlby be not re-appointed to the position of State Highway Engineer. His work in this county has been anything but satisfactory and the records of his achievements, as disclosed by the committee who investigated it, are not such as would warrant the State Commission in holding on to Major Bowlby as State Highway Engineer. There are many ugly rumors connected with his work in this county but as they are only rumors so far, no mention was made of them. However, further investigations are being made and affidavits are being secured which will be added to the protests against his re-appointment, if it becomes necessary.

JUST A SUGGESTION.

Not so very long ago there was a collection taken up in St. Helens to pay for the lights in the Court House clock and to which nearly every body in the city contributed. Using this circumstance as a premise why would it not be a good idea to take similar action towards raising sufficient funds with which to assist the city council in purchasing a load of crushed rock to place on the crossing between the school house and the Miles property on Caseman street? Attention has been called to the condition of this crossing and no work has been done.

If the council cannot see its way clear to purchase a load of rock for this crossing it is quite probable that most of the school children would contribute a penny or two towards paying for it. It would be worth that much to them to keep dry feet in crossing the street.

Not to exceed 25 St. Helens taxpayers were present at the Budget meeting held at the Court House Tuesday afternoon. There were perhaps 300 people present, the largest sized delegation being from Warren, Scappoose and Yankton, with quite a number from Columbia City and Deer Island. Clatskanie and Rainier were represented by small delegations, as were Vernonia and Mist.

All of which goes to show that the farmers of the county are the most alive to their own best interests, and are the ones who take an active interest in the public affairs.

TWENTY YEARS AGO

The Mist, January 4, 1895.

Mr. W. B. Dillard went to Portland last Saturday night to bring some friends down to enjoy the ice, but before they arrived the snow had fallen and spoiled the skating.

Dr. Ross was home from St. Vincent hospital to spend New Year, and to look after business affairs. He returned Wednesday morning to his post of duty as hospital surgeon.

The Nehalem Journal and Cathlamet Gazette have a county seat contest started in Columbia County. They do not say whether the county seat is to be at Vernonia or Cathlamet, but perhaps they will explain in due time. We, of St. Helens, know very little about such matters.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. English, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bishop, Mr. Erwin Seffert, and two sisters, and Mr. Fred Henderson, of Deer Island, the gentlemen all being members of this lodge, were present at the K. of P. Installation Tuesday night. Also Mr. and Mrs. N. A. Perry of Houlton.

Orchard & Jones, proprietors of the St. Helens Water Works, are considering a plan for putting in a gravity system and bringing the water from a spring on Milton Creek. They have not definitely decided the matter, however, and consequently no preliminary work has been done. Better water would be very much appreciated, and it would not be hard to improve on the present system.

The jail of Columbia County is situated in St. Helens, the county seat, but the structure is so flimsily built that Sheriff Doan is afraid to trust his long term prisoners within it, fearing they might walk out through the sides of the building. As a consequence the prisoners sentenced to more than five days' incarceration are taken to Portland and placed in the county jail there, the cost of the keeping charged to Columbia County. As the charge is slightly in excess of the net cost of the prisoner's board, Columbia County's lack of jail facilities proves a source of revenue to Multnomah County.

The last four days of last week were greatly enjoyed by the people of this vicinity who enjoy ice skating. On Wednesday the ice was sufficiently strong to bear up the average small boy, and on Thursday all classes, ages and sizes were in the midst of hilarity which continued all day Saturday and Sunday and was stopped about eight o'clock Sunday night by a light fall of snow. Friday the ice was at its best, and was all that the heart could desire in that line. The lakes back of town always furnish skating several days in advance of any other locality in this section, not perhaps, because it is colder here, but because we have small lakes covering several acres each, where the water is shallow, which freezes over before larger and deeper bodies of water do. The four day's skating was indeed a treat to those who enjoy such sport.

SMALL CHANGE.

Multnomah County tax levy for 1915 is 8.2 mills less than for 1914.

A plant to manufacture veterinary remedies is to be established in Portland.

The McArthur-Perks Co. has 800 men working on the Willamette Pacific Railroad from Eugene to Coos Bay.

L. Dysinger, Roseburg, expects to show a set of furniture made of deer antlers worth \$5,000 at the Panama exposition.

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via Willamette Slough
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STR. AMERICA

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(Sun. 1:30 p. m.)
Arrives St. Helens - - 6:00 p. m.
(Sun. 3:30 p. m.)
Leaves St. Helens - - 6:15 a. m.
Arrives Portland - - 10:15 a. m.

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respond quickly and inexpensively to our treatment. If your car rattles, or does not run smoothly, or jars, or makes too much noise, IT IS TIME TO BRING IT TO US if you want it to last. A dollar or two spent on that car today may save you ten tomorrow, and that is an INDISPUTABLE FACT.

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SYMPHONY LAWN WRITING PAPER

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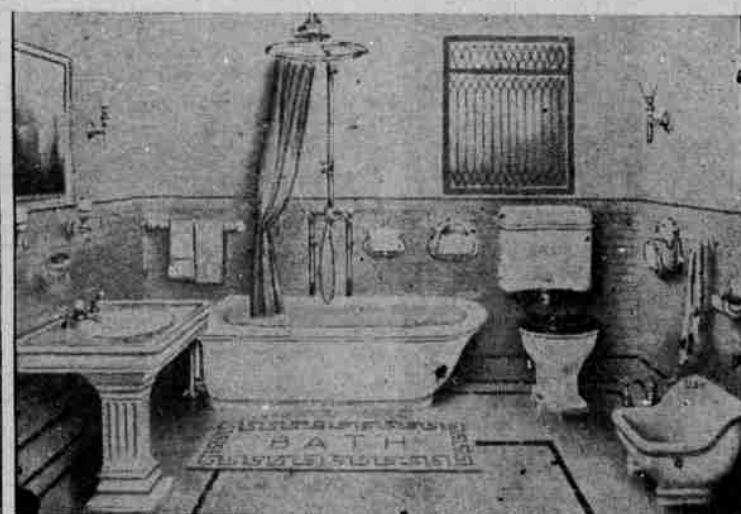
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